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16 August 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of Chief of Naval Operations, 14 August 1963, on U-2 Carrier Launch Exercise.

1. Captain Martin D. Carmody, USN, our Navy liaison for the U-2 carrier exercise, advised me on the afternoon of 14 August 1963 that the briefing of the CNO held this morning on the USS KITTY HAWK launch effort on 5 August 1963, including movies of the event, went very well. Present at the briefing, in addition to the CNO, were the following senior Navy people:

Vice Admiral John S. Thach, DCNO (Air)
Rear Admiral R. L. Taylor, Director of Naval Intelligence
Vice Admiral W. R. Smedberg, Chief of Naval Personnel
Vice Admiral U. S. G. Sharp Jr., DCNO (Plans and Policies)
Vice Admiral L. P. Ramage, DCNO (Fleet Operations and Readiness)
Rear Admiral B. M. Streat, ACNO (Fleet Operations)
Vice Admiral C. V. Ricketts, Vice Chief of Naval Operations

2. There was discussion at the meeting, among other things, of the possible involvement of a CVA [] for IDEALIST, and, while the CNO appeared mildly concerned over not having operational control within the Navy for this kind of launch, Captain Carmody advised that Admiral Thach gave a forthright and stirring defense of retaining operational control within the Central Intelligence Agency. I advised Captain Carmody that the Director had not opted for the carrier launch capability in this instance and that at least for the present we would not need to bother the Navy further on an operational employment of this capability. Captain Carmody said that the consensus of the meeting this morning, however, was that if the Director and/or the Special Group wanted to do this at any time in the near future such a move would have wholehearted Navy support.

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3. Captain Carmody also said that he mentioned to Admiral McDonald the question of carrier conversion training for IDEALIST pilots on the west coast and that the CNO deferred to Admiral Thach for an opinion on the feasibility of this training within the next few months. Captain Carmody has an appointment with Admiral Thach shortly to discuss this matter and expects no difficulty whatever in accomplishing it against a September commencement date. It is also interesting to note that the CNO and Admiral Smedberg are reported by Captain Carmody as favoring the nomination of two qualified carrier pilots to the IDEALIST Program along the lines which I discussed with Carmody several months ago when we were at Pensacola. Apparently Admiral Smedberg will now see what kind of individual he can shake out of the system from the Reserve ranks of qualified Navy carrier pilots. While we have not discussed this in great detail with Navy it now seems that the way is clear for serious consideration of involving one or more of their pilots in the IDEALIST Program.

15/
JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Deputy Assistant Director
(Special Activities)

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